

GOVERNMENT SERVICES UNION



GSU Newsletter

Spring 2021

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Statement from Randy Howard, National President

Here we are at the anniversary of the original Covid 19 lockdown. While we must focus on the present, keeping our colleagues and families safe, we must have a view of the future both in the short term, and into the future. I would encourage you to think about how we will work when we can go back to normal.

We all know that the world on the other side of this pandemic will be different from the one we left. Most members I have spoken with in the last year and every workforce study say the same thing, our members like the idea of working from home at least a few days a week. It's not a surprise, eliminating the commute gives us hours of our lives back, for



many it allows us to connect more fully with our families, we can eat healthier and we can save money. As we build back our working lives, we can accommodate the desires of those who would keep these gains.

Working from home has its drawbacks, but it can eliminate some of the biases that may hold some members back. For some it's small acts of harassment, for some it has removed them from environments that have become toxic. This pandemic has revealed some of the uglier parts of our society, and as we seek concessions from the employer, we need to ensure that expanding the diversity of our membership, and protecting our members' rights are at the forefront of our discussions.

As we rebuild our working lives, we need to do so with a vision of Solidarity with our fellow workers and an eye on protecting our rights. Even as we see a distant light in the fog of this pandemic, we have to refocus on what's important - making sure that our members are safe and that they are given the tools they need for their work.

You will find in this issue a calendar for the next year leading up to our convention. Like the rest of the year, there will be many changes to the normal way that we have been doing business. Please read carefully and mark the dates.

Randy Howard
GSU National President

NATIONAL COUNCIL

National Officers

Randy Howard
President

Martine Babcook
Vice-President

Kelly Bush
Vice-President (Equity)

Bruce Roy
Vice-President

Regional Vice-Presidents

Atlantic

Shanny Doucet
Anthony Drozdowski
Leanne Moss

Quebec

Mélanie Hamel
Michèle Parent

NCR

Kevin Hanson
Paul Paquette
Nicole Rousseau

Ontario

Sue Soubra Boone
Azra Jusuf

Western

Heather Rawlins
Sheldon Jacobs

Pacific

Linda Harding
Reni Stein

Royal Canadian Mint
Jeannette Fillion

GSU 8th National Triennial Convention

COVID-19 has brought a lot of disruption to everyone's lives and unions across Canada have had to adapt. With the pandemic still a big part of all our lives, work from home has become the next generation's way of getting the job done. By decision of the PSAC National Board of Directors, GSU had to postpone its convention, and this year is our new Convention year. Our 3 days of meetings will be hosted via online portals.

The GSU's 8th Triennial Convention will be held on a virtual platform across the country. GSU Convention Committees will be meeting online through July, followed by our full convention October 5 to 7, 2021.

We look forward to seeing you online at Convention in the fall. We will be providing you with more information about accessing the convention online. Feel free to contact your Regional Vice-President or the GSU National Office if you have any questions.

2021 GSU Triennial Convention Timeline

| | |
|----------------|--|
| April 6 | The preliminary Delegate numbers each Local can send to Convention provided |
| May 31 | The deadline for Locals to submit Resolutions to the GSU National Office |
| May 31 | The deadline for Locals to submit Delegate credential forms to the GSU National Office |
| June 9 | Convention Delegates will be notified if they are appointed to a Convention Committee |
| June | Registration Form for Convention will be posted on the GSU website |
| July 7-8 | Convention Resolutions Committees meet, (By-laws) |
| July 19-20 | Convention Resolutions Committees meet, (General) |
| TBC | Convention Resolutions Committees meet, (Finance) |
| September | Locals and Registered delegates will receive Convention Resolution Books |
| September 28 | The deadline for receipt of late resolutions in the National Office |
| September 28 | GSU National Council Meeting |
| October 5 to 7 | GSU 8th Triennial National Convention |
| October 7 | GSU National Council Meeting (following adjournment) |

GSU NATIONAL OFFICE

Randy Howard
National President

Maria Thomas
Executive Assistant to the National President

David Girard
Senior Union Representative

Jason Manchester
Executive Coordinator to the National President

Monique Desrosiers
Finance & Administration Officer

Stephanie Ehler
Union Representative

Paulette Michon-Hamelin
Union Representative

Logan Lafleur
Finance and Administrative Assistant

Diane Rancourt
Communication and Administrative Assistant

Neola Sanders
Administrative Assistant to the Union Reps

Jennifer York
IT Assistant

Contact Us!
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We've been holding virtual AGMs

GSU would like to make you aware that, in order to meet the needs of our members during the pandemic, the national office has been helping locals set up Online AGMs. These meetings have the authority to set budgets, accept reports, change by-laws and elect executives. They are also a great way to connect with members during the pandemic.

In November, we elected an entirely new executive for Local 10161 in Montreal. We can congratulate **Sylvain Proulx** for both his election as President as well as being the first member elected under a virtual AGM. Similarly, in December we elected a new president for Local 00027 in Toronto - **Liliana Manolache**.

We have continued to hold local AGMs over the internet since the beginning of the year. Our two locals in Quebec - 10011 in Quebec City and 10060 in Matane - held elections which resulted in changes to the executives. Congratulations to our new local President in Quebec City **Stéphanie Rochon** and a new executive in Matane led by President **Sonia Gagné**.

We have held meetings across the prairies. Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg have all held meetings which reconfirmed the executives in place there. Saskatchewan held a local AGM as well



to replace their outgoing president Sheldon Jacobs, who became a Regional Vice-President upon the resignation of Sister Larissa Williams. Congratulations to **Shannon Mayer**, president of Local 40007.

In the Atlantic - Local 90011 for Newfoundland and Labrador held their online AGM under RVP Leanne Moss to a great turnout. The Former Chief Shop steward **Liam Kieley** was elected by acclamation. AGMs for 80052 in Halifax and 60018 in Shediac will be held soon.

In the National Capital Region, we have held meetings for 70017, 70013 and 70019, 70017, which represents Shared Services Canada has been defunct for more than a year. At that Online meeting, the assembled members elected **François Zarraga** as Local President and we look forward to his work in one of our largest locals.

Local 70023 will be running their AGM in March and two of our Royal Canadian Mint locals will be running their AGMs in April.

We are waiting to be able to meet in person however, until that time comes, the work continues. We will hold online AGMs throughout the year to take care of our vital business and to keep in touch with the members.

Useful links

[Administration & Finance](#)

[Representation](#)

[Education & Useful Information](#)

[Collective Agreements](#)